Discontent due to non-stoppage of trains

†*438. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is aware that there is grave discontent among people as there is no halt of various trains at Dhenkanal Railway Station (Khurdha division of Eastern Railway) and Boinda Railway Station (Sambalpur division of East Coast Railway) in Orissa;

(b) if so, by when this feeling of discontent will be resolved;

(c) whether she will consider halting of 2879/2880 Bhubaneswar-Mumbai-Bhubaneswar train at Dhenkanal Station; and

(d) whether arrangement for halting of Rourkela-Bhubaneswar Intercity Express at Boinda Station will be made?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (d) At present, out of 13 pairs of trains passing Dhenkanal station, 12 pairs of trains including 9 pairs of Express trains are stopping at Dhenkanal and out of 11 pairs of trains passing Boinda station, 7 pairs of trains including 6 pairs of Express trains are stopping at Boinda. The stoppage of 2879/2880 Bhubaneswar-Lokmanya Tilak (Terminus) Express at Dhenkanal and the stoppage of proposed 8105/8106 Rourkela-Bhubaneswar Intercity Express at Boinda are under examination.

Private sector investment in education

*439. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal to allow private sector investment in education;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has asked Max India Chairman to prepare a feasibility paper thereon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Even at present private sector participation exists in the funding and management of educational institutions as long as surplus earned is reasonable and the same is ploughed back for development of institutions. The 11th Plan document as approved by the National Development Council, also mentions the need to further explore private sector initiatives and various forms of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the education sector.

The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) encourages non-governmental and voluntary efforts in Education, while preventing the establishment of institutions which intend to

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.